

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for use at a gateway node in a converged telephony / data network environment for communicating operating status information associated with nodes in a signaling system 7 (SS7) telephony signaling network of the converged network to nodes in a data network of the converged network, the method comprising:
 - (a) ~~receiving an SS7 message transfer part (MTP) network management message that includes detecting a network management event regarding operating status information associated with of an SS7 node residing in the SS7 signaling network;~~
 - (b) ~~in response to receiving the SS7 MTP network management message detecting the network management event, generating a data network management message including at least some of indicating the operating status information of the SS7 node; and~~
 - (c) sending the data network management message to nodes in the data network that are adapted to communicate with the SS7 network.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the data network is an Internet protocol network and sending the data network management message to nodes in the data network includes sending the data network management message to specific nodes in the IP network.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein generating a data network management message includes generating a transport adapter layer interface (TALI) message.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein generating a data network management message includes generating a stream control transmission protocol (SCTP) message.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein generating a data network management message includes generating a point code unavailable (PCUA) message for indicating unavailability of a point code in the SS7 network.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein generating a data network management message includes generating a point code available (PCAV) message.
7. (Original) The method of claim 1 comprising receiving a point code audit (PCAUD) message from one of the nodes in the data network, wherein sending the data network management message to nodes in the data network includes sending the data network management message to the node that originated the PCAUD message.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1 comprising receiving a point code congestion status audit (CONGAUD) message from one of the nodes in the data network and wherein sending the data network management message includes sending the data network management message to the node that originated the CONGAUD message.
9. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein generating a data network management message includes generating a session initiation protocol (SIP) message.
10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein ~~receiving an SS7 message transfer part (MTP) network management message detecting a network management event~~ includes receiving a transfer prohibited (TFP) message.
11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein ~~receiving an SS7 message transfer part (MTP) network management message detecting a network management event~~ includes receiving a transfer allowed (TFA) message.
12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein ~~receiving an SS7 message transfer part (MTP) network management message detecting a network management event~~ includes receiving a transfer restricted (TFR) message.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein ~~receiving an SS7 message transfer part (MTP) network management message detecting a network management event~~ includes receiving a transfer controlled (TFC) message.
 14. (Original) The method of claim 1 including sending the data network management message to a specific node in the data network that requested the operating status information associated with the SS7 node.
 15. (Original) The method of claim 1 including sending the data network management message to all nodes in the data network that are adapted to communicate with the SS7 node.
- 16-42. (Canceled)
43. (Currently Amended) A signaling gateway comprising:
 - (a) a first communications module for ~~receiving a signaling system 7 (SS7) network management message signaling unit (MSU) that includes detecting a network management event regarding SS7 point code status information for an SS7 node; and~~
 - (b) a second communications module for generating a data network management message that ~~includes indicates~~ the SS7 point code status information of the SS7 node and for sending the data network

management message to specified nodes in the data network that are configured to communicate with the SS7 node.

44. (Original) The signaling gateway of claim 43 wherein the data network is an Internet protocol network.
45. (Original) The signaling gateway of claim 43 wherein the first communication module is an SS7 link interface module (LIM).
46. (Original) The signaling gateway of claim 43 wherein the second communication module is an IP enhanced data communication module (eDCM).
47. (Original) The signaling gateway of claim 43 wherein ~~the SS7 network management message is detecting a network management event includes receiving a transfer prohibited (TFP) message.~~
48. (Original) The signaling gateway of claim 43 wherein ~~the SS7 network management message is detecting a network management event includes receiving a transfer allowed (TFA) message.~~
49. (Currently Amended) The signaling gateway of claim 43 wherein ~~the SS7 network management message is detecting a network management event includes receiving a transfer controlled (TFC) message.~~

50. (Original) The signaling gateway of claim 43 wherein the data network management message is a transport adapter layer interface (TALI) message.
51. (Original) The signaling gateway of claim 43 wherein the data network management message is a point code unavailable (PCUA) message.
52. (Original) The signaling gateway of claim 43 wherein the data network management message is a point code available (PCAV) message.
53. (Original) The signaling gateway of claim 43 wherein the data network management message is a congested destination (CONGLVL) message.
54. (Presently Amended) The signaling gateway of claim 43 wherein the second data network management message is a stream control transmission protocol message.
55. (Original) The signaling gateway of claim 43 wherein the specific nodes in the data network are identified using routing key rules.
- 56-57. (Canceled)